

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An electro-rheological fluid, comprising:
  - (a) a water-soluble starch[[,] ;
  - (b) less than 5 wt % (excluding 0 wt %) of water to total weight of the electro-rheological fluid[[,] ; ~~an additive to improve flow properties of the fluid and to prevent precipitation of particles in the fluid, and~~
  - (c) less than 1 wt% (excluding 0 wt %) of non-ionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of sorbitan monooleate, polyoxyethylene (4) lauryl ether, ethoxylated nonyl phenol, and mixtures thereof for improving flow properties of the fluid and for preventing precipitation of particles in the fluid; and
  - (d) a non-conductive solvent.
2. The electro-rheological fluid according to claim 1, wherein water content is less than 3 wt % (excluding 0 wt %).
3. The electro-rheological fluid according to claim 1, wherein water content is less than 1 wt % (excluding 0 wt %).
4. The electro-rheological fluid according to claim 1, wherein the non-conductive solvent is selected from the group consisting of silicon oil, transformer oil, transformer insulating fluid, mineral oil, olive oil and mixtures thereof.
5. The electro-rheological fluid according to claim 2, wherein the non-conductive solvent is selected from the group consisting of silicon oil, transformer oil, transformer insulating fluid, mineral oil, olive oil and mixtures thereof.

6. The electro-rheological fluid according to claim 3, wherein the non-conductive solvent is selected from the group consisting of silicon oil, transformer oil, transformer insulating fluid, mineral oil, olive oil and mixtures thereof.
7. The electro-rheological fluid according to claim 1, wherein the content of the water-soluble starch is 5 - 70 wt % of total weight of the electro-rheological fluid.
8. The electro-rheological fluid according to claim 2, wherein the content of the water-soluble starch is 5 - 70 wt % of the total weight of the electro-rheological fluid.
9. The electro-rheological fluid according to claim 3, wherein the content of the water-soluble starch is 5 - 70 wt % of the total weight of the electro-rheological fluid.
10. The electro-rheological fluid according to claim 1, wherein the water-soluble starch is dried ground particles of less than 10 $\mu$ m in size.
11. The electro-rheological fluid according to claim 2, wherein the water-soluble starch is dried ground particles of less than 10 $\mu$ m in size.
12. The electro-rheological fluid according to claim 3, wherein the water-soluble starch is dried ground particles of less than 10 $\mu$ m in size.
13. The electro-rheological fluid according to claim 10, prepared by an additional heating process.
14. (Canceled)
15. A preparation method of an electro-rheological fluid, comprising the steps of:
  - 1) grinding water-soluble starch in a grinder so as to have a size less than 10 $\mu$ m;

2) drying the water-soluble starch particles obtained in step 1) in a thermohygrostatic chamber at a temperature of 35 - 45°C and relative humidity of 30 - 50 %;

3) mixing a non-conductive solvent and an additive;

4) mixing the dried water-soluble starch particles obtained in step 2) with the mixture of the non-conductive solvent and additive obtained in step 3) such that the amount of the dried water-soluble starch particles is 5 - 70 wt % of total weight of the electro-rheological fluid;

5) boiling the fluid obtained in step 4) at 80 - 150°C in an oil bath; and

6) grinding the obtained fluid in a grinder so as to uniformly mix particles contained in the fluid.